

Town of Monson

Animal Inspector Duties

Barn Inspections

Barn Inspections are mandated by state law and administered by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources' director of animal health. They are necessary to ensure the health and well being of farm animals within the town.

Each town is appointed a Municipal Animal Inspector. The appointed person is responsible for performing the barn inspections. Barn inspections are designed to: get a good census of the domestic animal population in the town, make sure all the animals appear to be in good health and free from disease and also to observe animal housing and ensure ample food and water are supplied.

Permission to inspect any property on which animals are kept is assured to Municipal Animal Inspectors under Section 7 of Chapter 129 of the MGL.

To help keep up to date data, Monson has a voluntary information sheet that residents with barn animals may choose to fill out voluntarily, providing information including the type/number of animals kept on the property. However, not providing this information does not preclude an inspection. The form is available on the Board of Health page on the town website.

Inspections will generally be performed between October 1st and December 31st each year.

Inspections do not need to be scheduled by the property owner, but for convenience there is the option to. The Animal Inspector will show up during the inspection period each year regardless of whether you have scheduled an inspection. The inspections are typically only about 10 minutes.

If you are not home when the Inspector shows up, a note will be left asking that you call with days/times that work for you and a second visit will be made. Inspections will NOT be done if the owner/property owner is not home.

If a property owner chooses to fill out the voluntary information sheet, days and times that are best can be indicated at that time.

The main point of the barn inspections is to ensure animal health/public health and prevent the spread of disease.

The Animal Inspector would contact the Division of Animal Health should there be any concerns with the health/conditions of the animals.

Other duties of the Animal Inspector

The Animal Inspector is also responsible for rabies control. Rabies control is dealt with on a case-by-case basis and the proper course of action is taken depending on the situation.

A third duty of the Animal Inspector is to check ear tags and arrival dates of cattle from out of state.